

*Library*

The Manor House,  
Totnes.

10th August, 1955.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended  
31st December, 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Estimated mid-year Population.....5560  
Number of inhabited houses.....1849

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births.....	39	41	80
Legitimate.....	38	39	
Illegitimate.....	1	2	
Still Births.....	1		1

Birth rate per 1,000 population.....14.38

Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)..... 15.2

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	44	36	80

Death rate per 1,000 of population.....14.38

Death rate per 1,000 after allowance has been  
made for transfer of death of long-term  
patients in Broomborough Hospital.....11.87

Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)..... 11.3

Deaths from Maternal Causes.....Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year.....4

Classification of deaths is as follows:-

Tuberculosis.....	1
Malignant Neoplasms.....	15
Diabetes.....	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	11
Heart and Coronary Disease.....	25
Other Circulatory Disease.....	4
Pneumonia.....	2
Bronchitis.....	3
Other diseases of Respiratory System.....	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1
Prostatic Hyperplasia.....	3
Congenital Malformations.....	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases.....	9
Accidents (other than motor).....	2
Accidents (motor).....	1

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The classification of the above is as follows:-

Tuberculosis.....5	(Pulmonary.....3)
	(Non-pulmonary.....2)
Scarlet Fever.....1	
Whooping cough.....51	
Pneumonia .....2	(Acute primary)
Acute Anterior	
Poliomyelitis.....1	
Erysipelas.....1	

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Total	<u>61</u>
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### WHOOPING COUGH.

An epidemic of whooping cough which first showed itself in March and reached its peak in May, provided our first opportunity for judging the effects of the whooping cough vaccine which has been used in combination with the diphtheria inoculations. It would appear that the infection was milder in character than that which we have hitherto experienced, and there were no fatal cases. The fact that there were not fatal cases nor any complications notified is, of course, not necessarily due to the success of the vaccini-therapy; it has to be remembered that the new antibiotics have a wider range and that they hold the key to the control of this and future epidemics.

### INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

As was the case last year, one case of acute anterior poliomyelitis was notified. The case occurred in a young child and was paralytic in type. The source of infection was not discovered and no further cases turned up.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

In spite of the greater number of cases notified this year, I feel quite satisfied with the situation as a whole. Hospital accomodation has become easier and patients are now able to make an earlier start with their treatment. I am still very optimistic in my views on the future control of this disease. Modern methods of treatment have already done much to arrest the disease in those affected and Mass Radiography which is now being made available, is invaluable for the diagnosis of early cases.

### INFLUENZA.

About the middle of December the influenzal epidemic which had been steadily moving Southwards reached us at Totnes and the incidence curve rose sharply to reach its peak by the end of the month. The interesting feature of the epidemic was that it first laid claim to the children and the more adult members of the family succumbed later. The illness was of short duration, but convalescence was, on the whole, slow in comparison with the severity of the illness. Complications, pulmonary or otherwise, were rare - no influenzal or primary pneumonias having been notified.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATIONS.

I have nothing to add to what I said in my last year's report. The arrangements remain the same and our figures are



very satisfactory.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The provision of Hospital Accommodation shows no change and is as follows:-

Totnes and District Hospital for acute cases,  
24 available beds (including 5 cots.)

Broomborough Hospital for chronic cases	-	135 beds
-do- National Assistance Part III accommodation for residential cases only		43
-do- Maternity Wing		13 beds 12 cots

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Most of the maternity work is done at the Broomborough Maternity Hospital. Domiciliary midwifery is encouraged and is now more possible with the improved housing accommodation. The Child Welfare Clinic continues to flourish and much good work is done in this field of preventive medicine.

#### NURSING.

The position regarding the home nursing is unchanged. Our two nurses, who are also trained midwives, are well equipped with medical supplies and transport. In spite of the fact that the districts allotted to them have been greatly increased, they are able to meet the nursing demands of the Borough, and the position is satisfactory.

#### AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance Service provides two ambulances and drivers, and also attendances when required. This is a grand little branch of that great organisation, and we have occasion to be grateful for their despatch, efficiency and, not least, their never failing cheerfulness.

#### HOME HELPS.

This service is still available and provides the necessary help required in cases of chronic illness, old age, blindness, maternity, etc.

#### HOUSING.

The Pathfields houses have now been completed and a scheme is being put forward for 17 three-bedroom dwellings and 13 old folks bungalows. It is hoped to commence these early in the New Year and this scheme should be finished in the late Autumn.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

During the past year the water supply was quite adequate and excellent bacteriological (quarterly) samples were obtained.

#### CATERING AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

These have been periodically inspected and in one case only was it necessary to take action to have the premises

brightened up.

SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

The premises have been periodically inspected and no complaints of any seriousness arose.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

In only one case was it necessary to take action after receiving notification from the Factories Inspector.

(Signed) E. Davies.

Medical Officer of Health.